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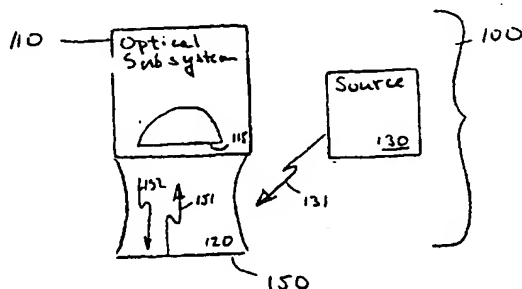
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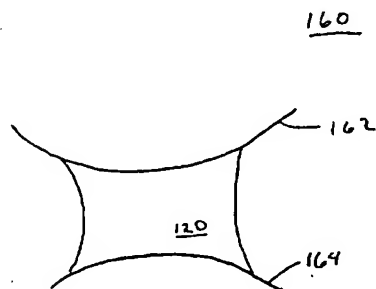
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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS EMPLOYING AN INDEX MATCHING MEDIUM



(57) Abstract: A perfluoropolyether (PFPE) index matching medium (120). The medium (120) may be used with electromagnetic radiation (152) having a wavelength below 220nm. The medium (120) may be used between two optical surfaces (115 and 150) or between an optical surface (115) and an object (150). The medium (120) may be used as an immersion fluid in an immersion lithographic system (100).

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WO 02/091078 A1

WO 02/091078 A1



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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 2 December 2002 (02.12.02);
original claims 1-16 replaced by amended claims 1-16 (2 pages)]

1. An optical system for transmitting light, comprising:
an optical surface; and
a liquid PFPE medium contacting at least a portion of the optical surface, the liquid PFPE medium configured to transmit at least a portion of the light.
2. The optical system of claim 1, further comprising a second optical surface, the liquid PFPE medium contacting at least a portion of the second optical surface.
3. The optical system of claim 1, wherein the optical system is a collection optical system.
4. The optical system of claim 1, wherein the optical system is a projection optical system.
5. An immersion lithographic system for projecting electromagnetic radiation onto a resist covering at least a portion of a substrate, comprising:
an electromagnetic radiation source providing light having a wavelength less than 220 nanometers;
an optical surface; and
an index matching medium contacting the optical surface and configured and arranged to contact the resist, the optical surface and index matching medium configured and arranged to transmit at least a portion of the light to the resist.
6. The immersion lithographic system of claim 5, wherein the index matching medium is characterized by a transmission of the light, and the transmission remains substantially constant during an exposure of the resist.
7. The immersion lithographic system of claim 5, wherein the medium is substantially transparent to the light.

8. The immersion lithographic system of claim 5, wherein the medium is substantially transparent after a dose of approximately 10 J/cm^2 .
9. The immersion lithographic system of claim 5, wherein the medium is a liquid.
10. The immersion lithographic system of claim 9, wherein the liquid is a PFPE.
11. The immersion lithographic system of claim 10, wherein the liquid is Fomblin Y[®].
12. The immersion lithographic system of claim 10, wherein the liquid is Fomblin Z[®].
13. A method of transmitting light, comprising an act of:
transmitting light through a liquid PFPE medium.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the light has a wavelength less than 220 nm.
15. The method of claim 13, further comprising transmitting the light through at least a portion of a first optical surface, wherein the first optical surface is in contact with the liquid PFPE medium.
16. The method of claim 15, further comprising transmitting the light through at least a portion of a second optical surface, wherein the second optical surface is in contact with the liquid PFPE medium.